



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

[OMB Control No. 1219-0089]

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Safety Defects; Examination, Correction, and Records

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments on the information collection for Safety Defects; Examination, Correction, and Records.

DATES: All comments must be received by the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning the information collection requirements of this notice may be sent by any of the methods listed below. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered.

- *Federal E-Rulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments for docket number MSHA-2022-0073.
- Mail/Hand Delivery: DOL-MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452. Before visiting MSHA in person, call 202-693-9455 to make an appointment, in keeping with the Department of Labor's COVID-19 policy. Special health precautions may be required.
- MSHA will post all comments as well as any attachments, except for information submitted and marked as confidential, in the docket at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: S. Aromie Noe, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov (email); (202) 693–9440 (voice); or (202) 693–9441 (facsimile). These are not toll-free numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. 813(h), authorizes MSHA to collect information necessary to carry out its duty in protecting the safety and health of miners. Further, section 101(a) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 811, authorizes the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to develop, promulgate, and revise as may be appropriate, improved mandatory health or safety standards for the protection of life and prevention of injuries in coal and metal and nonmetal mines.

This Information Collection Request concerns recordkeeping requirements related to: (1) Inspection of compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels; (2) Boilers; (3) Safety defects; examination; correction and records; and (4) Examination of

working places in surface and underground metal and nonmetal mines.

30 CFR 56.13015 (Surface Metal and Nonmetal Mines -Inspection of compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels) and 57.13015 (Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mines - Inspection of compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels) require that compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels must be inspected by inspectors holding a valid National Board Commission and in accordance with the applicable chapters of the National Board Inspection Code, a Manual for Boiler and Pressure Vessels Inspectors, 1979. Safety defects found on compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels have caused injuries and fatalities in the mining industry.

Records of inspections must be kept in accordance with the requirements of the National Board Inspection Code and the records must be made available to the Secretary or an authorized representative.

30 CFR 56.13030 (Surface Metal and Nonmetal Mines – Boilers) and 57.13030 (Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mines – Boilers) require that fired pressure vessels (boilers) must be equipped with water level gauges, pressure gauges, automatic pressure-relief valves, blowdown piping, and other safety devices approved by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to protect against hazards from overpressure, flameouts, fuel interruptions, and low water level.

Records of inspection and repairs must be retained by the mine operator in accordance with the requirements of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, 1977, and the National Board Inspection Code (progressive records - no limit on retention time) and shall be made available to the Secretary or an authorized representative.

30 CFR 56.14100 (Surface Metal and Nonmetal Mines – Safety defects; examination, correction and records) and 57.14100 (Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mines - Safety defects; examination, correction and records) require that operators must

inspect equipment, machinery, and tools that are to be used during a shift for safety defects before the equipment is placed in operation. Defects affecting safety are required to be corrected in a timely manner. In instances where the defect makes continued operation of the equipment hazardous to persons, the equipment must be removed from service, tagged to identify that it is out of use, and repaired before use is resumed.

Safety defects on self-propelled mobile equipment account for many injuries and fatalities in the mining industry. Inspection of this equipment prior to use is required to ensure safe operation. The equipment operator is required to make a visual and operational check of the various primary operating systems that affect safety, such as brakes, lights, horn, seatbelts, tires, steering, back-up alarm, windshield, cab safety glass, rear and side view mirrors, and other safety and health related items.

Any defects found are required to be either corrected immediately or reported to and recorded by the mine operator prior to the timely correction. The precise format in which the record is kept is left to the discretion of the mine operator. Reports of uncorrected defects are required to be recorded by the mine operator and kept at the mine office from the date the defects are recorded until the defects are corrected.

30 CFR 56.18002 (Surface Metal and Nonmetal Mines – Examination of working places) and 57.18002 (Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mines – Examination of working places) require that a competent person designated by the operator shall examine each working place at least once each shift before miners begin work in that place for conditions that may adversely affect safety or health. A record of each examination must be made before the end of the shift for which the examination was conducted. The record must contain the name of the person conducting the examination; the date of the examination; location of all areas examined; and description of each condition found that may adversely affect the safety or health of miners. When a condition that may adversely affect safety or health is corrected, the examination record shall include, or be

supplemented to include, the date of the corrective action. The operator must maintain the examination records for at least 1 year, make the records available for inspection by authorized representatives of the Secretary and the representatives of miners, and provide these representatives a copy on request.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

MSHA is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection. MSHA is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information has practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of MSHA's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Suggest methods to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

The information collection request will be available on <https://www.regulations.gov>. MSHA cautions the commenter against providing any information in the submission that should not be publicly disclosed. Full comments, including personal information provided, will be made available on www.regulations.gov and www.reginfo.gov.

The public may also examine publicly available documents at DOL-MSHA, 201 12th South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452. Sign in at the receptionist's desk on the 4th floor via the East elevator. Before visiting MSHA in person, call 202-693-9455

to make an appointment, in keeping with the Department of Labor's COVID-19 policy.

Special health precautions may be required.

Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

III. Current Actions

This request for collection of information contains recordkeeping provisions for 30 CFR 56.13015 (Inspection of compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels) and 57.13015 (Inspection of compressed-air receivers and other unfired pressure vessels), 56.13030 (Boilers), 57.13030 (Boilers), 56.14100 (Safety defects; examination, correction and records) and 57.14100 (Safety defects; examination, correction and records) and 56.18002 (Examination of working places) and 57.18002 (Examination of working places). MSHA has updated the data with respect to the number of respondents, responses, burden hours, and burden costs supporting this information collection request.

Type of Review: Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration

OMB Number: 1219-0089

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit

Number of Respondents: 11,279

Frequency: On occasion

Number of Responses: 5,487,441

Annual Burden Hours: 1,236,293 hours

Annual Respondent or Recordkeeper Cost: \$218,190

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,
Certifying Officer,
Mine Safety and Health Administration.
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